

Appl. No. 10/699,945
Amdt. dated November 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 3, 2006

IT20020047

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended) A dishwasher comprising a circulating pump, a washing tank provided with a substantially horizontal filter disposed in the path of the flow of water drawn in by the circulating pump, and spray means capable of directing downwardly at least one rotating water jet, wherein such filter presents a not uniform percentage of open area; and an area of the filter below a circular pattern of the downwardly directed jet presents said percentage of open area lower than the other portions of the filter.

2 (cancelled)

3 (currently amended) A dishwasher according to claim 21, in which said filter is a perforated or punched plate, wherein it presents one central zone and two side zones outside the circular pattern of the downwardly directed jet, such two side zones having a percentage of open area higher than the percentage of open area of the central zone.

4 (original) A dishwasher according to claim 3, wherein said two side zones have a plurality of holes with a pitch lower than the pitch of holes in the central zone of the filter.

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5 (original) A dishwasher according to claim 4, wherein said two side zones of the filter present a percentage of open area comprised between 20% and 40%.

6 (original) A dishwasher according to claim 5, wherein the holes of the filter have a diameter comprised between 0.7 and 0.9 mm.

7 (currently amended) A dishwasher according to claim 21, wherein the filter presents a substantially circular zone, corresponding to the circular pattern of the downwardly directed jet, with no hole or perforation.

8 (new) A dishwasher comprising:
a circulating pump;
a washing tank provided with a substantially horizontal filter disposed in a path of a flow of water drawn in by the circulating pump, the filter having holes spaced in a first zone with a first percentage open area and in a second zone with a second percentage open area, the first percentage open area being larger than the second percentage open area;
a spray means with at least one downwardly directed water jet, wherein the water jet rotates in a circular pattern and strikes upon the second zone of the filter.

9 (new) The dishwasher of according to claim 8, wherein the second percentage open area results in a substantial reduction of an amount of air bubbles entrained with the water that is drawn in by the circulating pump.

10 (new) The dishwasher according to claim 8, wherein the second zone is presented in a circular pattern.

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11 (new) The dishwasher according to claim 8, wherein the second percentage open area of the filter is presented in a central zone and the first percentage open area of the filter is presented in two side zones, the two side zones being outside the circular pattern of the downwardly directed jet.

12 (new) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the holes of the central zone have a pitch higher than the pitch of holes in the two side zones of the filter.

13 (new) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the filter is a perforated plate.

14 (new) The dishwasher according to claim 8, wherein the second zone of the filter presents the second percentage open area between 8% and 20%.

15 (new) The dishwasher according to claim 14, wherein the holes of the filter have a diameter comprised between 0.7 and 0.9 mm.